Create and Perform an Environment

The teacher may utilize various improvisational games and/or texts (e.g., “Barnyard” and picture books) to activate student background knowledge so that students can begin exploring the dramatic expression of animals with a given environment.

The teacher may highlight the behaviors and actions of characters within a fable/story/tale so that students may begin seeing inclusion of particular animals as central to the themes, messages, and actions of the fable/story/tale.

The teacher may highlight the physical context(s) of a fable/story/tale so that students can explore the actions of animal and human characters in a particular environment(s).

The teacher may utilize video and/or picture book examples of animal facial expressions so that students can begin to consider and explore how animals express emotions.

The teacher may introduce the characters, themes, conflict of an animal-based fable, story, or fairy tale so that students can begin to explore performance of the fable/story/tale.

The teacher may highlight the conflict(s) within a fable/story/tale so that students can begin to internalize the ways in which the relationships between human and animal characters bring about story-resolution.

The teacher may utilize video and/or picture book examples of animal movement and body language so that students can begin to consider and explore how animals express emotions with their bodies.

The teacher may utilize video and audio clips of vocal variations of animals so that students can begin to consider and explore how animals use sound to express emotions.

The teacher may utilize video and/or picture book examples of animal movement and body language so that students can begin to consider and explore how animals express emotions with their bodies.

The teacher may utilize video and audio clips of vocal variations of animals so that students can begin to consider and explore how animals use sound to express emotions.

The teacher may read aloud a picture book (e.g., How to be a Cat by Nikki McClure) so that students can explore bringing together verbal and non-verbal forms of expression to create/depict an animal character.

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PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: Your troupe of theatre performers has been asked to present a play for students who are reading and studying fairy tales and fables! You have chosen to present a play based on a Tibetan folk tale entitled, The Elephant Pit. This play will allow you to use your vast knowledge of animal characteristics and their environments to create a dramatic retelling using voices, facial expressions, and body movement. Working together, you will create and dramatize the animal and human characters that help to tell this folk tale and convey the moral of the story. You and your fellow performers will be responsible for making sure the environment of the play (sets and backgrounds) and the performances capture the characters and theme!